

THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

4001 Harding Road Nashville, TN 37205

2 April 2009

Vol. LXV, No. 6

Seniors Involved In Harrowing Bike Accident

by
Will Andrews
Staff Witness

I am sure all of you have heard of the bike accident of seniors Connor Shope and Brian Swenson. I myself have heard many stories about the incident, but you can't always believe what you hear. This is the story of what happened in the early morning of Saturday, March 21.

Brian Swenson, Connor Shope, Wade Longmire, and I were all headed back to Will Overton's beach house in Watercolor, Florida, where we were staying. It was 2:45 a.m., and we had just left a girl's house where we were hanging out. All four of us rode bikes to the house and were getting on them to ride back to Will's.

Shaking with cold, we were moseying back to Will's house when we came upon a split in the road around which we always raced. Connor asked Brian if he wanted to race and he accepted this challenge. Once we got to the split, Connor and Brian took off in different directions, Connor going left and Brian right. Wade and I watched them as their silhouettes disappeared into the dark.

The next thing we heard was the crash of a bike to the pavement. We figured Connor had fallen but didn't know for sure, so we biked quickly up to where the two roads met again. We saw Brian lying motionless on the ground, and Connor was moaning and writhing in pain.

I quickly got off my bike and pointed my light in between the two of them. It looked like Brian had come onto the main street down which Connor was racing, and neither of them saw the other; consequently, they crashed.

Connor's front tire rammed into Brian's, which made him fly over the handle bars and hit the left side of Brian's head with the right side of his face. Brian's front tire was in an "S" shape, and Connor's was left with a 90-degree turn, which made it align with the handlebars.

When we saw the two of them, Wade tended to Brian, who was motionless for what seemed like an eternity, and I tended to Connor, who was saying his nose hurt and his finger was bleeding. Wade and I were talking to both of them just to keep them calm and figure out what happened. Wade was asking Brian to talk to him because he was still motionless on the ground. Finally he responded and we were relieved.

Connor started to get on his feet and asked us where we were and what happened because he could not remember. Brian was looking for his shoes that were scattered on the curb and on the other side of the road from him. Brian seemed different from his normal self, which made Wade and me very

nervous.

After a quick discussion of what to do with the two of them, Wade and I decided to take them to Will Overton's because it was closest. Brian was saying how tired he was and that he just wanted to go to bed, but I knew that he shouldn't go to sleep right after a head injury. Brian then grabbed his bike and started to walk home with the bike over his shoulder, but I ran and took the bike from him and told him to take mine as a crutch. As soon as he had my bike in his hand, Brian started heading to Will's

Overton, while Will and I climbed into his truck to follow them.

We got to the hospital where we waited in the waiting room for about 40 minutes. The entire time we were in the waiting room I was constantly nudging Brian or Connor to keep them from falling asleep. Connor's nose was bleeding and Brian was fading quickly, so Mrs. Overton went to the receptionist to tell her that they needed help. Not very long after, a nurse came to get Brian and lead him back to the ER. Mrs. Overton went with him, but once

have a seizure while the doctor was in the room. He was being taken to critical care, where they had to stabilize him. He had to get a breathing tube and was hooked up to many machines. The cat-scan revealed that he had a skull fracture and a brain hemorrhage, bleeding and swelling in his brain, in the front right of his head.

This hospital didn't have the proper equipment to treat Brian, so they had decided to life-flight Brian to a hospital in Pensacola. Will and Mr. Overton started driving to Pensacola to be there as soon as possible. The drive was going to take two hours, while the helicopter flight with Brian would only take 20-30 minutes.

Mrs. Overton and I told Connor the situation, which made him feel guilty. We told him that it wasn't his fault and to go back to sleep. The doctor came into Connor's room to give us his cat-scan results. She told us that he had broken his cheek bone and smashed in his sinus cavity. The good news was that he would be able to go home as soon as they could get him ready to. At around 7:30 in the morning Connor was wheeled out to the car and we were able to go back to Will's beach house.

Brian arrived at the Pensacola hospital on a breathing tube and was hooked up to the machines again to keep him stabilized. The rest of our group, Clark Benton, Barrett Jacques, Brandon Dockery, Michael Nunan, and Wade Longmire had been awakened and told Brian's situation by the time we arrived back at the house.

A few hours later we left to go see Brian in Pensacola, where we arrived around 2:30 in the afternoon. Mr. Overton and Will had been waiting all night in the waiting room after seeing him several times through the day, and they were happy to see us all. Brian's family arrived around 3:15 from Nashville and went straight back to see him. While some of us were getting food, we received the news that Brian was stable and off of the machines. Right then we all gave a sigh of relief and had a strong feeling that we had been lucky the night before. Brian stayed down in Pensacola until Thursday, March 26; on that same day Connor had surgery to repair his cheek bone, which was broken in four places. Luckily, the doctor found his sinus cavity intact.

We are very lucky that both of them will be all right, and we have all learned that it is always better to get medical attention for what might seem like minor injuries. I know that I will be very appreciative of the time that I will spend with both Brian and Connor in the future.



Brian's all smiles while laid up in the hospital.

he stepped through the doors, he started to bleed out of his ear and cough and throw up.

Soon after Brian was gone, Mrs. Overton came to get Connor and the rest of us to go back to the ER rooms. I went into Brian's room with Mrs. Overton, while Will and Mr. Overton went with Connor. It was around 4:30 in the morning and Brian started to throw up again. After he fell back asleep, the nurse took him to get a cat-scan. I went into Connor's room with everyone else, where we talked about what had happened.

Brian came back from the cat-scan, but this time I stayed with Connor and Will, while Mr. and Mrs. Overton went into Brian's room. Connor was taken away for a cat-scan, and Will and I were left alone to talk about everything that was going to happen.

Shortly after Connor was back, Mrs. Overton came into Connor's room crying while Mr. Overton followed her into the room. They told us that Brian had started to

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THE BELL RINGER

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Letters to the Editor are encouraged, and can be delivered to its office, the Faculty Advisors, the Editors, or sent to bellringer@mc.montgomerybell.com (simply type 'Bell Ringer' into First Class). These letters must be signed; The Bell Ringer neither publishes anonymous submissions of opinions or articles nor permits individuals to remain unidentified unless protected by other rules of confidentiality at MBA. Letters will be edited for length and clarity.

The staff of The Bell Ringer prepares all copy, headlines, and photographs at Montgomery Bell Academy. Franklin Web Printing in Franklin, Tennessee, prints the paper.



High On The Hill

Legalizing Marijuana Makes Economic and Social Sense

by
Aaron Lutkowitz
Staff Editorialist

As Congress, while simultaneously hunting down AIG for upholding contractual obligations, has recklessly wasted taxpayer money in a vain attempt to "stimulate" the economy, people in America are continuing to suffer, especially in the state of California. California's debt is up to \$40 billion, and its citizens are leaving the state because of high taxes being irrationally spent. Recently leaders in California have proposed an alternative method of helping an ailing economy: legalizing marijuana for non-medical purposes. Although this is America - not Amsterdam - this policy should and could be effectively implemented on a federal scale.

A congressional bill legalizing marijuana for medicinal purposes would be a good first step in the right direction. Cannabis has proven health benefits - ranging from a pain-killer for chemotherapy patients to a reducer of glaucoma risk, an eye condition - and has been legal in California for medicinal purposes for several years.

Scientific experiments have found that in some illnesses proper administration of illegal drugs yielded more positive results in patients than several pharmaceutical drugs. In one extreme instance, a mutated form of Ecstasy, an amphetamine and hallucinogenic party drug, is now being used to cure post-traumatic stress disorder of veterans. Ironically, tobacco is one of the most unhealthy drugs to consume, especially considering the victims of second-hand tobacco smoking, yet it has been a cornerstone of American society for centuries, as American as apple pie or baseball.

The federal government should then encourage, but not require, states to legalize marijuana for non-medical purposes. Economically, this policy actually would stimulate the economy. State and federal governments have spent hundreds of billions of dollars attempting, unsuccessfully, to halt the illegal trade of marijuana for decades. Thousands of immigrants enter illegally for the sole purpose of selling drugs as drug cartels originated in Mexico have exploded

into hundreds of US cities. Prisons are overrun with people who sell marijuana, forcing governments to spend billions more to expand jails and police forces. Once marijuana hits the legal and free market, it could be taxed, like tobacco, to rake in even more government profit.

In reality, legalizing marijuana fully would be beneficial for the war on drugs. Following the legalization of marijuana in the Netherlands in the 1970s, there was a noticeable drop in the use of cocaine and other severe narcotics, with only a slight increase of marijuana usage. Logistically, California has seen legal problems with legalizing marijuana for only medicinal purposes. For example, it is illegal to transport the marijuana from the manufacturer to the patient. Thus, full legalization is the most effective policy.

If Americans are free to consume alcohol and tobacco, both just as harmful, if not more so, than marijuana, then why shouldn't this drug be legalized? Such desperate economic times call for drastic measures.

Sexism Gaining Too Great A Hold On Campus

by
Pat Killian
Features Editor

At our all-boys preparatory school, feminism ranks among the least supported interest groups on campus. Recent sexist remarks at school functions, however, merit fresh discussion of gender equality here on the Hill.

At the Father-Son Dinner, an officer of the Father's Club presented female members of MBA's administration with gift cards to Jim and Nick's and, in a completely friendly way, suggested they use the gifts "in case [they want] to get out of the kitchen one night."

The father did not seem to be making a joke, and no one took it as one. He simply made a friendly comment that was based on a very sexist assumption, that is, that a woman's place is in the kitchen. Such a comment, along with the fact that our waitresses were students from Harpeth Hall, gave the whole dinner an aggressively masculine feel.

In the Freshmen Speech Competition, Jamie Joyce won the crowd with jokes. His best one? A remark about Harpeth Hall, downplaying the possibility of its students ever accomplishing anything. Who didn't laugh?

Sexism is undeniably

present at MBA; I did not need to recount the stories above to prove that point. These public incidents, however, do show how insensitive the student body is to the injustice of sexism. (Note: This article hinges on the belief that sexism is, indeed, unjust.)

Perhaps the largest obstacle to combating sexism at MBA is the lack of a large vested interest on campus, that is, female students. Unlike diversity issues, gender equality has no consistent champion; there is no Women's Rights Club to work alongside the African-American Studies and Asian Cultural Clubs. Nevertheless, Headmaster Brad Gioia feels confident that MBA can teach its students to value women correctly.

First, Mr. Gioia points to the ease and openness of classroom discussion. In a single-sex environment "a teacher can better appeal to the interior life or emotional side of boys," he maintains.

Second, Mr. Gioia feels that the school has done a good job of bringing in educational assembly speakers. He cites recent speakers Becca Stevens, founder of Magdalene House; and Steve Siler, who discussed the objectification of women in pornography.

Lastly, Mr. Gioia feels that

with a faculty that is 25 percent female, MBA has a sufficiently large population of mothers and mentors to keep sexism at bay.

And yet, problems clearly persist. Recently, there have even been incidents of great disrespect towards female teachers. Alvin Kim ('10), co-founder of the Asian Cultural Club, suggested a program of educational diversity to combat the unsavory trend.

"With the ACC, we obviously cannot go out and recruit Asians to come to MBA, so we aim instead to broaden the education of the students already here," he explained.

"Since you can't recruit female students either, you would have to approach the issue in a similar way."

Alvin doubted, however, that any student at MBA would take the initiative to start a club promoting gender equality.

Sexism is prevalent on campus and needs to be addressed more directly than it is currently. "Appreciating" fifteen-year-old girls, as another assembly speaker put it, is simply not enough.

Send us your thoughts! Write a letter to the editor!

MBA Sophomores Investigate a Nashville Peculiarity, Discover Belegarth

by
Andrew Powell, Ryan Hill, and Jack Hallemann
Staff Medievalists

Surely, at some point, while casually cruising down West End on a Sunday afternoon, you've spotted "the guys that fight at Elmington Park." You must have wondered what was going on, but you probably just left it at "The Lord of the Rings is as close to Middle Earth as I want to go." Though this a perfectly reasonable response to such a medieval anachronism, certainly you eventually found yourself wanting to know what in the world they're really up to. So, after spring break, in response to a significant lack of ideas for a Features article, Jack Hallemann, Ryan Hill, and Andrew Powell bravely took it upon themselves to venture into the warriors' camp, get some long-needed answers, make a few friends, and get whacked with foam-covered PVC pipes.

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, ripe with the scent of fresh blood spilt upon the spring grass, three brave and questionably stupid boys made their way up to a crowd of uniquely garbed, middle-aged men and women.



Andrew, it was nice knowing you.

We watched them fight a little before we approached. We were not alone; in fact, a large group of spectators had amassed on the outskirts of the battlefield. Just to get a feel for what other "people from the future" like us thought, we questioned some of the observers about their reactions to the chaos around us.

The responses varied from "Do you think those swords hurt?" to "Why's that guy wearing a skirt?" to "what are they smoking?" to "I'm soo drunk"—I think we made some new college friends. After a few minutes we realized we would have to man up and go talk to one of the Medievalist fighters if we ever wanted to find anything out.

After a quick deliberation about who looked the least likely to challenge us to a duel, we began to cross over to the other side. We selected a secluded group of warriors, sitting below a tree and refueling with some mutton and mead (?)—theirs seemed like the most welcoming place to get some answers.

We sheepishly approached the

resting warriors, unsure of how they would take three preppy kids asking them questions about their hobby. We had been sure to wear our running shoes—just in case. Over blaring music from the likes of Korn and Avenged Sevenfold, mixed with the mournful noises of warfare, we mustered the strength to ask one of the fighters if he could answer a few questions. At this, there were some groans from other men and women assembled, as we found out that we were the third group that day to come by and ask them questions, and some were rather tired of all the attention they received. Nevertheless, our man was a friendly guy, despite a five-foot sword in his right hand and a mace in his left, and said he would be happy to tell us all we wanted to know.

The guy we decided to interview declined to give us his name, so for all intents and purposes, his name was Frodo. Our main concern in asking this guy questions was that we would somehow insult him and spark a feud. Therefore we decided to

Park outpost of Belegarth. He told us that they had been fighting here in Nashville for 13 years, but when they first started, Frodo was too young to actually fight. Instead, he got to sit on the sidelines with all the other aspiring members of his clan. It makes you wonder what his answer was when asked "What do you want to be when you grow up?" All in all, though, he was a great guy and put up with all of our questions when he obviously wanted to get back to either "killin'" or "relaxin'."

We spent a while trying to figure out the rules of the battlefield, because often from the road these fights seem completely unorganized. It appeared at first to be an all-out battle royal, but then the last man standing began selecting teammates from his less fortunate comrades. It was obvious now that two teams were squaring off against each other. Eventually, people who had "died" even began to stand back up in the middle of battle and rush back into the fray; apparently they had just suffered flesh wounds.

While talking to our new friend, we learned that there are many different types of fights, including Cutthroat, which is every man for himself. Some of the modes of battle are actually very complicated and range from an equivalent of King of the Hill to blind contests at night to fights with "werewolves."

As far as etiquette goes, you can hit someone anywhere but the face as hard as possible. If you do happen to knock someone's noggin, you must instantly hit the ground and crank out ten pushups. A hit to the torso or two limbs simultaneously means temporary doom, while a blow to one arm or leg cripples your opponent.

But the rules don't stop at the types of battles. The soldiers of Belegarth wielded all sorts of weaponry from swords and daggers to battle axes and giant clubs; some carried shields, and many people wore armor, too. The catch is that each combatant has to make his or her own materials.

We learned that most people use PVC pipe, foam, graphite, pantyhose, and too much spare time to craft their articles of death. To be approved, the weapons are tested against the backs of very unfortunate people who indicate, after being chopped in half, if the blow hurt too much to be used on the field. Certain types of weapons also have advantages against shields and armor to insure that the fighting is in no way made boring—a true, real-life version of Dungeons and Dragons.

Believe it or not, each battle has its own referee called a "herald." When did war become so organized?

The herald simply makes sure that no one whacks an enemy in the head and, also, catches any sly fellows trying to cheat death. One other responsibility is to inform everyone of the current type of battle.

By the time Frodo finished talking to us, about 15 minutes had passed, and we had amassed quite a wealth of knowledge. Never did any of us suspect this group at Elmington Park to be so dedicated and their game so sophisticated. We knew all there was to know about Belegarth—our gracious informant had been sure of that—but there was some fact missing, some question left unanswered.

As we walked back to the cars, we passed by a warrior sitting out with the spectators, taking a break to talk with some non-Belegarth friends. He was holding two short swords, and in a fit of stupidity, Andrew asked, "Hey, do those hurt when you get hit?", to which he responded, "I'll show you!" He did. One blow to the stomach sent Andrew gasping for air. In, though, the tradition of MBA sophomores and, maybe all MBA students, and men in general, Jack, Ryan, and Andrew could not resist getting in on the action now.

So we paraded over to the stock of arms, picked our weapons of choice, and walked out to our impending doom. Ryan selected a long sword and mace, Jack an 8-foot battle axe, and Andrew two short swords, and the three amigos spent the next half hour fending off grown men in a battle for the ages.

We got killed countless times, lost innumerable arms and legs, got yelled at by the heralds for doing stuff wrong. But all in all, although painful and intimidating, we were reminded of something we had almost forgotten, something innate to any male of any age....

It's a whole lot of fun just to whack people with stuff.



Ryan Hill and Jack Hallemann, Belegarth-style

Juniors Are All Over The Place

by
Will Henry
Staff Writer

In this great world that we call MBA, the juniors dominate....as always. **Tyler Paslick** has been leading the MBA service community with his energetic work with Backfield in Motion. For that matter, he took an exchange student from New Zealand named, well, uhhh, I don't know his name, but he likes bananas. Anyway, **Andrew Mitchelmore** came from New Zealand with this unnamed scallywag, and together they are the Kiwi diplomats.

Jonathon Golab set the single-day record for high-fives.

In athletics, **Neil Ryan and Hershel** have been draining tre-balls in FAST (fat butts stickin' together) everyday after school. **Campbell Haynes** warms the bench.

Sam Moxley and Andrew Hømgren are joining together on "weekendz" to keep the school green. They've been keeping their power off all night.

On the college-lookin' scene, **Daniel White** went to Morehouse College, **Kyle Brantley** loved U. of Miami, and **Aaron Lutkowitz** visited his brother in Florida.

Joshua Liang and Alvin Kim organized the Asian Cultural Club Ping Pong Tournament to help penguins in Siberia. Joshua also grilled out burgers and watched Pineapple Express last Saturday. According to him, he is not the same man he was last week.

Zach Sternberg, still refraining from the athletic field, made Allstate for instrumental excellence for, like, the tenth

year in a row. Congrats, Zach.

Richard "The Brick" Wall won four events in Science Olympiad regionals; **Max Planck** smiled down from heaven.

Luke "Does you even go to this school?" Colbert went to have a cavity checked out. Upon seeing his teeth, the dentist declared "It's like a pigpen in your mouth."

Sources inform me **Ben Weakly's** and **Patrick Sweeney's** bromance is still going strong. How cute!

Fitz Lassing and Tee Griscom were spotted comparing bicep sizes last week in the physics lab. Last I checked, that's still overtly fabulous.

Alex Snow drove his car at top speed out of the Junior parking lot with

windows down and subs blaring. That's not really news, though, since Mr. "They hate me cuz I'm me" has been doing stuff like that since August.

Patrick Lovett can't wait for Lent season to be over so he can go back to doing....well, doing what the "Viper" does.

In other news, **Jordan Herring** beat his little sister in arm wrestling; **Steven Burbank** aka Cosmotose wrote another awesome song (check his stuff out--it's legit); **Thomas Obermeier** saw *Watchman*, and **Dylan Petraitis** went to a wet t-shirt contest in Panama City, Florida.

In conclusion, **Ben Mecklenborg** and **Jack Murfee** shook hands. **Jackson** wished he could have been part of that "brodown."

Seniors Travel And Play

by
Fadi Pulous
News Editor

With less than forty school days left until school ends for the year, the seniors are really beginning to anticipate graduation. In this article, we're going to talk about some spring break stories, spring sports, upcoming One-Acts, summer plans, college choices, and, unfortunately, members of the senior class, namely **Will Holt**.

In a dazzling display of linguistic diversion, **Sully Mehio** one day was not only able to stop class in English but also cunningly persuaded **Mrs. Palmore** to let him share his summer intentions. **Sully and Wyatt** intend to travel around the world on a World Tour to eat various foods and to immerse themselves in culture. When Mrs. Palmore questioned the probability of this ever happening, Sully agreed that the chances were "slim to none," but it was hard for him to concentrate with thoughts of food running rampant in his head.

Daniel Green had a family-friendly spring break and headed to Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Though he claims he did it on purpose in order to ride the ski patrol toboggan, Daniel tripped while skiing and bumped his head in the snow, which led to his semi-conscious ride in the toboggan. Daniel's also very ecstatic about going to Bonnaroo 2009, which looks to feature one of the greatest line-ups in recent history.

Bailey Brandon chimed in with "Mexico was...Mexico." I'm not too sure what to make of that, but judging from his slight decrease in paleness, the tan was great. **Houston Oldham**, who was also in Mexico, had a similar opinion with the addition of regarding **Robert McNeilly** as the trip's hero. I don't know if this is the same Robert McNeilly that led the JV soccer team in most soccer balls received to the groin, but I'm glad to see things are getting better for him, both on and off the field.

Richard Brunsting had a great time at the Atlantis Resort in the Caribbean. His college decisions are coming in from Duke, Georgia, Wake, and Vandy as well.

Chris Anderson wanted to give a modest shout to the tennis squad that's led by seniors **Leland Bandlow**, **Richard Brunsting**, and himself. Come out and support Big Red tennis!

In response to my monthly e-mail, **J.B. Hardin** wrote me a page-long essay regarding his summer plans, specifically where he intends to hike. J.B. has an action-packed summer and will be attending Warren Wilson College. *The Bell Ringer* and MBA will sorely miss this high kicking, assembly-crowd-energizing man as he leaves the Hill next year.

Zach Brickner, who went on the London trip, has been bragging about his "bro-moment" ("broment"?) with **Greg Gillis** of Girl Talk when he went to his concert. Zach also intends on joining Daniel at Bonnaroo for an encore of this show. Most importantly, however, Zach contends that he will be putting out his graduation cigar on Chris Anderson's chest. Chris wants to prove that his skin is made of steel...best of luck with that, Chris.

Taylor had a great time with "Sea-Breeze" at Seaside and has not slept for an entire week after rumors of Metallica coming to Nashville in September were confirmed. In a surprise move, **Will Holt** has chosen indentured servitude over attending college next year. Will plans to cater to **Dr. Kinch** so that his wife can take a vacation. Will intends to keep his fridge freshly stocked, his feet rubbed, and the NBA games on at all times.

Alex Martin wanted to give another shout out to the "One-Acts" which will be playing soon. Come out and support these seniors rounding out their stage careers! Lacrosse, baseball, tennis, soccer, and track are all in the thick of their respective seasons. Each team features a myriad of senior participants, and it would be great to have some support in these coming weeks!

Finally, the seniors send their condolences to **Mrs. Bourland's family**. Many of the guys went through junior school English and had her as the teacher. From every person with whom I've spoken about her legacy, it has been very easy to gather that she had an incredible love for teaching and made each one of her students feel unique, which allowed many of those students to have a strong educational foundation. She will live in our memories for a long time.



Fadi, how could you forget Will O?

Cheers To The London Trip; Sorry, Mexico

by
Jimmy Balser
Entertainment Editor

For those of you looking for a non-traditional answer to your spring break needs, it is time to direct your eyes over the Atlantic. This year Mr. Morrison and Mrs. Sutherland took a group of seniors and underclassmen to London for ten incredible days. We left with the hope of becoming cultured intellectuals, but while we may never be as sophisticated as those snooty Brits, the amazing city of London certainly broadened all of our perspectives.

Throughout the venture, Mr. Morrison led us around as only a true Englishman can. Naturally, we saw incredible plays that covered everything from politics, art,

marriage, and even American gangsters. The favorite for most of the students ended up being a new show called *The Overcoat*, which I would try to explain, if not for the fear of disgracing how complex it is.

Still, the plays were just a taste of the London experience. The city is completely accessible to anyone, and after a quick tube ride we were anywhere we wanted to be. There just isn't enough room in this article to describe all the shops and shows we saw every night and day, but I'll do my best to sum up a couple of highlights.

Our band of jolly adventurers climbed the Tower of London, cheered with the fans

at a Westham United soccer match, and even pretended to suffocate in the Millennium Wheel (to the horror of onlookers below).

In London, some of the world's most incredible art was at our fingertips. We roamed the halls of the National Gallery and appreciated the brilliance of Rubens, Caravaggio, and Bruegel. We stood in horror in the Tate Modern Art Gallery as a 50-foot spider loomed above our heads. We encountered what I assume to be the world's largest taxidermy collection at the science museum. We came as close as we ever will to meeting Patrick Stewart at Madame Tussauds Wax Museum. We even screamed "Narmer!"

down the halls of the British museum, while running into ancient Egyptian sarcophagi and Assyrian lion hunts. But some of my favorite times had to be simply sitting on the bank of the Thames after visiting a hot dog stand and reflecting on everything we had seen and done that day.

At spring break it can certainly be tempting to sit for days on a beach in Cancun or Cabo. If, though, you are looking for a more exciting, and, honestly, more exhausting, vacation, I urge you to consider the London trip. The knowledge you bring back is alone worth the price, and the experiences are priceless.



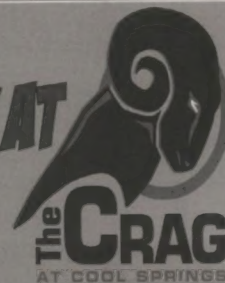
Drew Lonergan, Vic Goets, Mrs. Sutherland, and Mr. Morrison ride the Tube



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Students In Athens Immersed In Greek Culture

by
Thompson Barr
Staff Writer

The Bell Ringer has received this letter from Thompson Barr, who is on exchange in Athens, Greece, with Matt Moynihan:

Dear Bell Ringer,

For the past week, Matt and I have been on exchange, going to school at Athens College in Athens, Greece. As we have been on what is called, for legal reasons, a "cultural immersion experience," we have tried to experience Greek culture, and there are some differences that make theirs a wonderful and enviable culture.

Greeks are easygoing people, and the regular timetable is completely different from that of MBA or Nashville. On the day we arrived in the country, we stayed out till 3:00 am and slept till 4:00 pm. While some (cough! Neil Ryan) do this on a regular basis at home, most everyone subscribes to this lifestyle in Greece, as formal dinner parties may start at 11:00 at night and end with the group going out at 3:00 in the morning.

Similarly, the dinner time in Athens is around 10:00 at night, unlike the regular 6:00 or 7:00 at home. There is no drinking age in Greece, and cigarettes are completely legal as well, so, by my estimate, more than half of the country smokes.

You can probably guess that most people in Greece speak Greek. Most of them also

speak English, luckily for us, because both of our attempts to learn the language crashed, burned, and left us knowing only two or three phrases each. We've done some pretty amazing things so far. We saw the Acropolis, which holds a shattered Parthenon (even though our Parthenon is intact). We saw Delphi, which was the most amazing landscape I have ever seen.

Further, Athens is a huge city, so it is as exciting to be here as it would be in New York or Chicago. This exchange has been unbelievable. I've learned a lot so far about Ancient Greeks, Modern Greeks, and the "evil" Turks (yes, we were here on Independence Day).

I've been able to experience a different life style, which makes me envious of the Greeks but also more thankful for mine at home (I don't get much sleep here). I highly recommend this exchange for any juniors next year.

See you in a couple of weeks,
Thompson Barr and Matt Moynihan

P.S. I'd just like to say thanks to Mr. Gioia and Mrs. Warner for making this awesome trip possible.



Thompson Barr, Matt Moynihan and host Xenofon Fon Kontouris (far left) smile despite the Parthenon's dilapidated state.

Freshmen Ready For Spring

by
Joe Scherrer
Staff Writer

Back to school from spring break now for over two weeks, most of us are almost dead, because school seems torturous in comparison to vacation. Hopefully, though, the coming weeks will show some excitement as new activities take place.

The MBAsians are hosting a Ping-Pong tournament in the coming weeks. Chris Lee says he will dominate like never before.

Miles Anderson, David Arteaga, Bryan Oslin, Zach Chen, and Chris Lee traveled to the state Science Olympiad competition at UT on March 28. The team came in 3rd overall and placed in 15 out of

23 events. Bryan Oslin was MVP.

Adam Cornett went on the London trip with Mr. Morrison over spring break. He says it was really fun, but "the most important thing I learned was all the hot girls hang out at the museums."

Class elections are now underway, but not nearly as many people have signed up to run as last year. For some offices, like vice-president, only one person is running.

Congratulations to the Freshman Speech Contest winner, Jamie Joyce, along with finalists Will Stewart, Karthik Sasstry, and all participants! Jamie's sense of humor seemed to have swayed the judges.

A Student Catches A Glimpse Of Mr. Eppstein

by
Alex Hagar
Staff Writer

New to the Hill this year is math teacher Cole Eppstein. Mr. Eppstein is a Vanderbilt graduate, and at MBA he has embarked on his first teaching job.

This, though, is not his first job, as he has moved furniture, worked in a barbecue kitchen, and claims to have fought crime as a vigilante.

Even though it seems he would be unable to be surprised, after being a vigilante, Mr. Eppstein claims to have met some surprises as a teacher at MBA. He says that he was surprised by Mr. Gillespie's speech at the winter sports assembly and, also, by the fact that at MBA, an all-boys school, if a boy is flutulent during class, he and others laugh, whereas at a coed school the boy would simply be tremendously embarrassed.

Apart from the jokes, Mr. Eppstein says that MBA is a truly unique school and that each school has a certain environment to which both students and teachers must adjust.

So, obviously, Mr. Eppstein has a great sense of humor which seems to be his most favored quality among students, and

we are glad to have him as a great new addition to the MBA community.



Mr. Eppstein's Napoleon complex is evident



Congratulations to Chunbum Park on his National Gold Award in the National Scholastic Competition for his pen and ink drawing "New and Old" (above)

Students Discuss The Existence Of God

by
Thomas Moore
Staff Ontologist

Before Spring Break, the Philosophy Club convened under the leadership of its stalwart faculty advisor and English teacher Dr. Batten and student-lecturer Ed Powell to embark upon the not untrodden ground of the timeless debate on the existence of God. Here I will endeavor to furnish a compendious account of the history of the argument, followed by an equally concise description of the work of Alvin Plantinga, the focus of the club's most recent discussion.

More ink has been spilt on the topic of the ontology of God than even the amount of ink required diurnally by Wesley Wilson's fancy fountain pen. Anyone moderately acquainted with the subject has heard various proofs thrown about, whether it is the cosmological argument, which identifies a "first cause" or "prime mover" as God, the teleological argument, asserting that the natural order and complexity of the universe is attributable only to a higher power, or the ontological argument, which attempts to prove God's existence through a priori demonstration.

The last argument is probably the most developed and the most well-known. The Persian philosopher Avicenna (980-1037) was the first to propose the idea. He believed that since "things" come into existence and then pass out of it, existence itself is non-essential. Assuming that existence has no purpose, therefore, can only mean that things exist at all as a result of some external cause. This proposition presents, of course, a causal chain that must culminate in one entity uncaused by anything else. This entity is called God by most.

Descartes continued the ontological argument in his Fifth Meditation. He posited that whatever quality one understands to be fundamental to an object's being or idea is a necessary truth of that object; therefore, because he saw God's existence as fundamental to the idea of God, as indeed it seems to be, he asserted God's existence as the resulting necessary truth. This proof doesn't satisfy skeptics, most of whom have a hard enough time believing in

the pencil they are holding ...or validating the ontological status of a conversation they might be having.

Alvin Plantinga, currently a Professor of Philosophy at Notre Dame, contributed to the conversation with his well-known use of the "free will defense". This defense is designed to counter J. L. Mackie's famous "logical problem of evil," an idea which presents the inconsistency of the presence of evil or suffering in the world of a benevolent Christian God. Proponents of the "logical problem of evil" find the existence of the personal God of Abrahamic religions to be absurd, since murder, cancer, and natural phenomena constantly wreak havoc among even the most pious of religious adherents.

Against this claim, Plantinga sets out to prove that belief in God is not necessarily absurd. In his defense, Plantinga states that it is logically possible that God could have created a world in which evil exists for the purpose of free will. He achieves this task by asserting that free will is a greater good purchased at the expense of the presence of evil, without which "good" would be an undefinable quality anyway. The important aspect of this defense to understand is that Plantinga is not trying to prove the existence of God, but merely maintaining that a belief in God is not made illogical by the existence of evil.

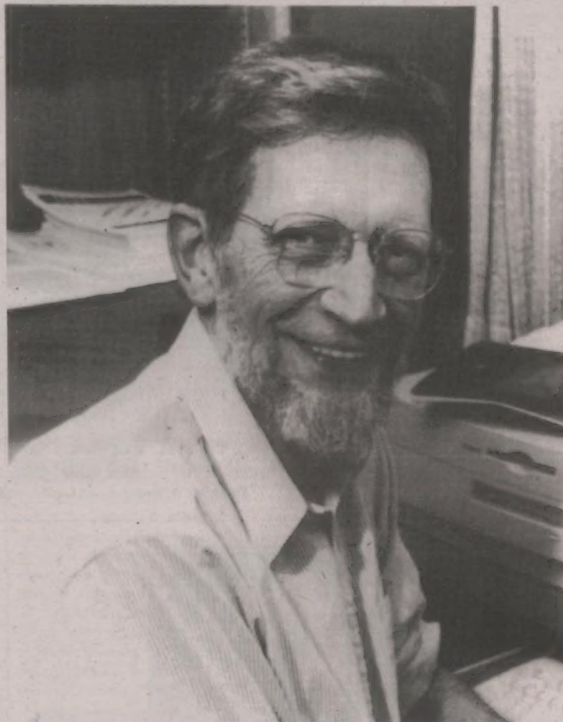
In another observation, the "evolutionary argument against naturalism," Plantinga upholds that a simultaneous belief in evolution and naturalism (the belief that only the natural exists, thereby excluding the supernatural) is self-contradictory. If human cognitive faculties evolved based on survival value alone, and not based on the production of true beliefs, then there is, necessarily, reason to doubt the results of those same faculties, of which naturalism and evolution are two. If, on the other hand, as Plantinga asserts, man were created in God's image, man's beliefs would be more reliable. While he does not provide the solid proof for God which skeptics still await, Plantinga seems to achieve his goal of de-

flecting any proclamations of the inherent absurdity in the belief in a higher power.

At the conclusion of the discussion of the Philosophy Club, each individual was left to reflect on what was said, ponder his own convictions, and to reach his own conclusion. Chunbum's obstinate insistence, however, that God, Jesus, and the angels were really aliens who assumed humanoid appearances before alighting on this world,

seemed to reinforce Plantinga's mistrust of mankind's cognitive powers. All I recommend to you, reader, is not to put Descartes before the horse.

Learn the meaning of nothing!
Philosophy Club meets
Existentialism, courtesy of Jean
Paul Sartre, Friday at 3:30 p.m. in
the library conference room.



Alvin Plantinga, contemporary philosopher or Mr. Pruitt in disguise?

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Sophomores Savor the Spring

by

Andrew Powell

Staff Writer

I would like to take the liberty in starting this column to make a "melbern" shout out, proud home of **Stoggy** and **Hunta** (you have not been forgotten!) as it has been going through some major brushfires. Fortunately, in a recent report from **Alex Stogdale** himself, " 'sall cool down under, mate.' Glad to hear the boys are doing all right. Now to the news.

Over Spring Break, sophomores traveled everywhere from England to Belize, from Florida to the upper-reaches of Canada. Or, in the case of our first noble news contributor, **Philip Danieley**, stayed at "the homeplace and about tha town." But wherever they went, relaxation and good times were had by all.

There are many so exciting stories from the break, I don't really know where to start. So...eeny-meeny-miney...**Brad Swain**. Our very own Swain-Train (toot toot) spent his glorious spring break in Arizona, where he saw the Grand Canyon and played golf (and won, I might add). **Chris Goodrich** took a trip to New York. **Cody Fisher**, **Tom Markham**, **Matthew Johnson**, and **Burrus Cox** (not technically from MBA, but an honorary member of the sophomore class by my reckoning) all tore up the slopes at Snowmass, and happened to run into **Hunter Wise** while there. **Nick Kohler**, **Chase Lovelace**, and **Connor Pagnani** spent their breaks playing Pokémon. And **Scott Gould**, **Doug McWilliams**, and **Hayes McCord** all went to Park City, Utah.

When asked about what he did over Spring Break, **Patrick Duffy** ran away.

In a totally unrelated but totally awesome note, as I'm writing this article during lunch period the day that it's due, I'm looking around and I happen to see **Andrei Lucaci** eat an entire burrito in one bite. Whoa! (or "woa!" as **John Wyse** would say). If that isn't news I don't know what is.

In maybe the most interesting news item since the invention of news, **Will Norton** had his picture taken by **Dan Marino**. Note – not with Dan Marino, but by Dan Marino. He says he asked a friendly looking fellow to take a picture for him, but did not realize until he was told later that the man was the one and only Dan Marino! What are the chances? I don't know.

Speaking of freak occurrences

of nature, **Michael Peters**, a 4th article-in-a-row contributor (deserving a round of applause!) ran 47 miles over his break – 47 more than **Carter Callaway**. In the Highland games on Saturday, Michael won the kilted mile with a time of 4:40 (running in a skirt, nonetheless) with sophomores **Jack Hallemann** and **Cody Fisher** following in their equally attractive gear.

Drew Lonergan, **Gage Baxter**, and **Andrew Wright** went on the London Trip with Mr. Morrison, which, from what I've heard, was a blast. Speaking of foreign encounters (weak segue I know), **Ford Altenbern** went to his lakehouse and "was heckled by hicks who thought we were foreign because of our last name." Never know what you'll find in the great state of

Tennessee.

Justin Park (JPII of the dynamic sophomore Justin Park duo) went to Sports Servants in Belize with **Stevie Bedard**, **Ryan Shepherd**, **Lane Bullock**, **Cito McClure**, **Davis Thrailkill**, and **Clay McDonald** – a very admirable use of their break.

In one of the more remarkable stories I've heard in a while, **Van East** and his father saved a man's life at an Atlanta gas station, stopping the blood after the man had been jumped and then going to get help. And when he wasn't saving the world, Van went skiing with alligators. Excuse me, barefooting with alligators.

For his second mention in this article, **Andrei Lucaci** claims he went to a casino over the break and then said something about a mustache. I didn't ask.

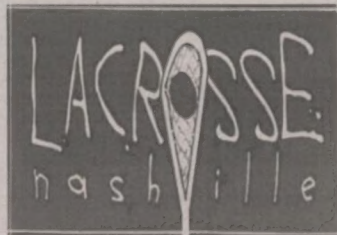
Another staple in any news write-up is **Woldn Macey**. Woldn says he went to the bathroom for Spring Break, watched a couple movies and played ping pong while he was at it. He also "read a book, and had gushers ice cream and a banana."

Nathan Tinnell filmed his entry for the film festival over the break, which is a WWII story told entirely through God's magical gift of legos. Also, the film was shot in his bathroom, where he had developed a masterful set. I'm pretty excited to see it – sounds interesting.

Thus ends the lengthiest, most action-packed issue of sophomore news to date. Thanks to all who contributed, and a big ole' thanks to viewers like you.



Doug McWilliams, Scott Gould, and Hayes McCord in Park City, Utah



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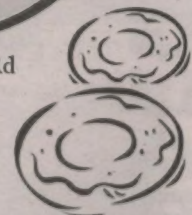
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MBA Youth Legislature Team Has Fun And Talks Laws

by
Daniel Green
Staff Delegate

MBA's young politicians converged on the Sheraton hotel downtown for YMCA's Youth Legislature last weekend to experience life as a Tennessee delegate. After leaving school during assembly on Thursday, we soon found ourselves debating about proposed bills in our sub-committee. Due to some problems, all of the MBA delegates had to present their bills extremely late that night with the first starting around 10 p.m. By this time, not surprisingly, no one in the room was very interested in hearing about any more bills.

Alas, none of MBA's bills, despite being well-written, made it out of sub-committee for this reason. Also affecting our chances was a tendency for bias toward the delegates' own schools and friends, just as in real politics.

Seniors Jimmy Balser, Daniel Green, Ben Gregory, Patrick Hallahan, Bradford Norton, Sam Page, Patrick Sohr, and Nick Williams, as well as sophomores Partha Reddy and Jack Keller, spent the next two and a half days debating and voting on legislation in the House and Senate. One really incredible thing about Youth Legislature is that it takes place in the actual Capitol building, so we are able to sit at the same desks as Tennessee's real representatives and senators.

Rivaling the fun and excitement of sessions in the House and Senate were the

Conference dances on Friday and Saturday night. Friday night was kicked off by a delicious banquet for all delegates and speeches by the three candidates for governor of next year's conference.

After a break for "personal time," the MBA team headed back to the Sheraton ballroom for the first of two dances. The next night was even more exciting when we heard the news of a tornado warning in Davidson County. The threat of the storm was enough, most unfortunately, to cancel the Saturday night session. Instead, we all had a long break before once again throwing on our casual best and our dancing shoes and heading to the second Youth Legislature dance. By Sunday morning, everyone was exhausted from late nights and early mornings and ready to get back home.

The weekend at the Sheraton and Capitol building was an exciting and interesting time as always. Debating over bills, avoiding the hawk-eyed college staff, and having a good time with friends made the weekend a fun success, even though the results were not quite what we had expected. With the seniors, who brought back the program to MBA last year, graduating, Mr. Lester will look to the underclassmen and rising juniors to engage in MBA's political maneuvering at Youth Legislature conferences in years to come.



Above: A debate rages at the YMCA's 2009 Youth Legislature



Science Olympians fall short of Nationals but bring home hardware.

MBA Takes 2nd At State Science Olympiad

by
Seth Akers-Campbell
Staff Olympian

On Saturday March 28, the Big Red Science Olympiad team competed at the state tournament, held at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. The Red Army, Corps of Engineers once again proved to be one of the top teams in the Tennessee, winning two events and finishing second overall, behind traditional science and engineering powerhouse Oak Ridge.

After an arduous trip Friday afternoon, the team faced its first major setback when it was discovered that the bottle rockets had been left in Nashville. However, Dr. Marro, leaving Nashville later that night, rescued the rockets, and the scientists and engineers enjoyed a preparatory meal at Outback Steakhouse before settling in at the hotel to study, build airplanes, and do other important things not completely related to Science Olympiad.

Waking up early, MBA arrived before sunrise at the team's home base in the Nuclear Engineering Building and submitted the entries of building events for impound. Remaining in Knoxville until sunset, the Olympians devoted the rest of the day to chemical reactions, problem solving, test taking, identifications, testing constructions, and launching projectiles.

At the end of the day, all fifteen members of the MBA high school team won a medal (given first through sixth place) and the depth of the team was essential to finishing ahead of rival schools such as MLK, Harpeth Hall, and Hume-Fogg.

Gold medals were won in the events "Write It/Do It" (which involves effective communication and following directions) by Seth Akers-Campbell and Carter Callaway and in "Dynamic Planet" (which involves

earthquakes, volcanoes, and plate tectonics) by Seth Akers-Campbell and Robert McNeilly.

MBA captured silver in eight events: "Chemistry Lab" (Rahul Sastry and Kevin Carr), "Disease Detective" (Rahul Sastry and Curry Beeker), "Ecology" (Chunbum Park and Karthik Sastry), Fossils (Chunbum Park and Karthik Sastry), Health Science (Ed Powell and Curry Beeker), "Physics Lab" (Rahul Sastry and Michal Zienkiewicz), "Picture This" (another event involving effective communication done by Connor Caldwell, Carter Callaway, and Andrew Powell), and "Trajectory" (Michal Zienkiewicz and Sam Moxley).

Rahul Sastry and Kevin Carr achieved bronze in the chemistry-based Forensics event.

In addition to senior captains Rahul Sastry and Robert McNeilly, MBA now graduates seniors Ed Powell, Curry Beeker, and Chunbum Park. However, a promising list of junior schoolers and freshmen competing in the Division B this year will fill in under next year's leadership from the current junior class of Seth Akers-Campbell, Kevin Carr, Sam Moxley, Richard Wall, and Michal Zienkiewicz.

In the "B" division MBA freshman Bryan Oslin won the MVP award because of his 1st-place finish in Physics, 1st in "Bio-Process," 4th in "Disease Detective," 5th in "Science Crime Busters," and 5th in "Road Scholar."

Anyone who is interested in high school Science Olympiad should contact Dr. Dickens or sign up at Activity Fair next year.



Michal steals Rahul's medals, March 2009

MBA Teacher Is Google Champion: Ms. Ellery Wins Competition

by
Jimmie Anderson
Staff Reporter

Recently, MBA's very own Latin I and II teacher, Ms. Ellery, entered a competition offered by Google to map out ancient Rome. Entered in the Literature/ Language Arts category, Ms. Ellery swept the competition to win the category. The Bell Ringer decided to interview the Google champion.

Bell Ringer: What aspects of Google did you use for the project?

Ms. Ellery: Well, there's the new software on Google Earth titled ancient Rome 3d. Basically, by going into Google Earth and turning on extra features, anyone can get to it, which allows you to fly around the ancient city.

BR: How did you learn of the contest?

Ms. Ellery: Google had a wonderful blog called Google for Educators, and the title was Curriculum Competition, and Ms. Serrano forwarded that to me, and I was able to enter, which I guess is a lesson in working with our colleagues and being supportive.

BR: Will students participate or interact with your work?

Ms. Ellery: I hope to use the project this year or next, but it is new. I had wanted to do a Roman Empire project for a while. I guess my 4th period Latin II class was my inspiration for the project because I wanted to be able to break down the various periods of empire and present them.

BR: How did you send your project in to Google?

Ms. Ellery: Just right through Google's project homepage. It was kind of funny when I tried to upload it because I hadn't read the directions and the word limit was 1500 and I had 4500, so I had to spend a few hours cutting it down.

BR: What exactly did you win?

Ms. Ellery: I won an Apple MacBook laptop, a digital projector for the classroom, Digital camera, 3d navigation mouse, \$500 Target gift card, and the best, a Google -engraved "Top Educator" plaque - that's the one that's really priceless.

BR: Would you do something like this again?

Ms. Ellery: I'd love to. It was so generous of them to do it. I'd definitely do it again. I'd love to learn more about technology and how to use it in the classroom as well.

BR: How did you learn about computers? Did you teach yourself or take classes?

Ms. Ellery: I basically self taught

myself, but it was nice because they created something that everyone can use. As I use it in the classroom, I'm sure my students will outstrip me in the their abilities to use the program.

BR: Where did you go to school? Did you do any computer-based projects there?

Ms. Ellery: I went to college at Sewanee. Our mathematics and astronomy classes were computer-based, but aside from that I never did anything besides word processing. I studied abroad-in Rome my junior year, and I had a professor who was at the forefront of putting this technology together. His name is Bernie Fischer. It's really meaningful to hear from him and thank him for his role in technology.

BR: How did you get into Latin?

Ms. Ellery: I had taken Latin for three years in high school, but I never intended to study it intensively in college. I enjoyed Latin my freshman year at Sewanee, mostly because of the sheer genius and force of personality of my professors, and then I decided to continue studying it while taking Introductory Greek my sophomore year. Ironically, it really was Greek that made a Latin major out of me. I decided to study abroad the following year through a Duke program called the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome, and the rest is history. I was hooked!

BR: What can you tell me about the Foreign Language department's blog?

Ms. Ellery: I wanted to start a blog for our department for a number of reasons. First, each language teacher uses so many different, exciting approaches that we can all benefit from having a way to share our ideas. We teachers often get locked into our own ways of doing things and miss opportunities to learn from our colleagues. Also, it's a great way to post news about the department and to share what we're doing with the MBA community. Finally, I wanted to create a vehicle for showing off our students' work, which I hope will happen as we continue to use the blog. Visit mbalanguages.blogspot.com to learn more.

BR: What teachers here helped you in your first couple of years of teaching?

Ms. Ellery: Anne Christeson has been my *sine qua non*, selflessly mentoring me since day one. Rick Seay and Beatie O'Connell have been indispensable sources of advice and friendship. Many others, too countless to name, have guided me in the magical arts of teaching, and I count myself lucky to work with such incredible colleagues every day.

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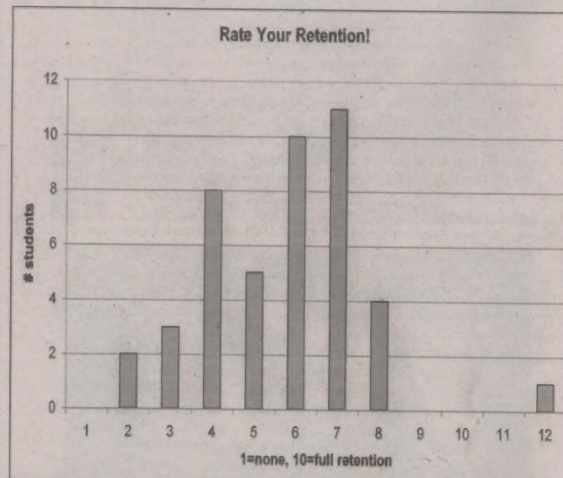
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Post-Spring Break Poll

In the days following Spring Break, students were asked to rate their retention of pre-break material on a scale of 1 (no retention) to 10 (full retention). One student (not Matt Bracy, I swear) ranked himself as a 12, claiming he came back from the holiday smarter than ever before.



The students seem confident in their memories,
but perhaps their teachers would be better judges.

A Couple Of Movies To See

by
Will Holt
Entertainment Editor

Gomorrah- Modern *Godfather*. This brutal Italian film provides a glimpse into the real violence and crime of the Camorra, Italy's mob of mobs. This film strips away any romantic ideas you may have of the mafia. It transcends Hollywood crime movies in its desperate attempt to portray the affect of the Camorra on the poor, the youth, the old, and the minority. Three plots occur simultaneously, ultimately culminating in three violent climaxes. This film is for the strong-stomached moviegoer who thrives on the emotional impact of criminal activity.

Watchmen- In our last issue, I urged that the reader seek out *Watchmen* as soon as it came out. How right I was! I can only define this movie as a cosmic clash of color, atmosphere, stylized violence, and, of course, the comic book. Director Zach Snyder proves surprisingly respectful of the original graphic novel text. The extreme plot twists, character hook-ups, and human explosions from the original text and animation are transcribed beautifully onto film. *Watchmen* is one of those movies you must see on the big screen. Its melodramatic tone and cliché soundtrack actually enhance the movie experience. It is the epitome of Hollywood filmmaking, and you will be riveted by the obsession with color and beautifully choreographed fight scenes. Bully to *Watchmen*! Warning: Nude radioactive superhero on Mars may cause laughter.

Here are three more recipes for turning Sage's basically delicious food into exotically delicious food.

• Hawaiian Barbeque Chicken

Burger: This one is easy-peasy lemon-squeezy. It tastes great and it doesn't take long to make.

- 1 bun of bread
- 1 chicken patty
- Pineapple(s)
- Barbeque sauce
- This thing is AWESOME.

• **Buffalo Chicken Burger:** This one can take a while to make, depending on how many items you decide to put in this sandwich. The good news, though, is that you can put almost anything that can

go between bread into this sandwich, and it will still taste good.

- 1 bun of bread
- 1 chicken patty
- Add some of that Frank's Red Hot Sauce, which Sage offers.
- For dressing, mix the blue cheese with ranch to get Blue Cheese dressing.
- Pick your favorite vegetables and stuff them in there: pickles, shredded lettuce, tomato, banana peppers, jalapenos, black olives, red onion rings, etc.
- Adding a slice of cheddar or provolone cheese can make it good, too.
- If you want the Red Hot sauce to taste sweeter/more tomato-ish, just add some ketchup.

Creating Special Dishes With Sage Food, Part Two

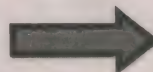
by
Sully Mehio
Staff Culinary Guru

• **Mexican Fried Ice Cream:** It's not actually fried ice cream, but it tastes exactly like it – and if you've never had it before, it's much better than it sounds.

- 1 cup of the vanilla ice cream
- Those churro-chips things, the fried chips covered in sugar and cinnamon
- Mix the two things. Crush the chips so the flavor is spread throughout this mixture.

- The Mayans ate their chocolate with cinnamon – so if you decide to use chocolate ice cream, it'll taste like Haagen Daaz's Mayan Chocolate flavor they came out with a few months back. Yes, it's good stuff.

Let me know how you enjoy these special creations. Feedback is relished.



Sully works another culinary miracle, turning typical cafeteria food (L.) into high school ambrosia (R.)

Debate Team Reasons To Season's End

by
Karthik Sastry
Staff Writer

The MBA debate team continues to shine on the national level with another successful year.

During the 2008-2009 season, the debate team posted strong results at prestigious tournaments around the country. MBA Debate captured tournament titles at Mountain Brook High School, Vestavia Hills High School, Collierville High School, and Samford University.

At the Lexington (MA) Debate Tournament, the policy debate team of Sam Page ('09) and Hershel Mehta ('10) won the championship, while Campbell Haynes ('10) and Wesley Wilson ('10) were the top seed in the tournament.

Aaron Lutkowitz ('10) also made an impact on the national stage by winning the George Mason University Extemporaneous Speaking Tournament in Washington, D.C.

Debate is one of the oldest extracurricular activities here on the Hill (even predating football). As coach Kevin Hamrick explains, debate is an intellectual competition but one that is no less intense than any other sport.

The term "debate" may refer to a wide variety of events, but MBA competes

primarily in two different formats of debate: policy debate and extemporaneous speaking. In policy debate, a team of two competes against another team and tries to persuade a judge with a strong and reasonable argument relating to a pertinent issue. Extemporaneous speaking involves preparing in only thirty minutes a seven-minute speech in response to a current events question.

The Debate season is mostly over, but there are still major tournaments on the horizon. On May 2-4, MBA will send its policy debate delegation to the Tournament of Champions at the University of Kentucky, the foremost national tournament of policy debate.

Coach Kevin Hamrick describes the tournament as something like March Madness for debate, from the process to the atmosphere. Teams can qualify by collecting a certain amount of "bids," which a team receives by advancing to a certain stage of selected national tournaments. If a team does not have the requisite amount of bids, they can also apply for one of many at-large entrances by merit of their overall performance throughout the season.

The team of Hershel Mehta and Sam Page has already qualified by merit of

bids; the debate team hopes that Campbell Haynes and Wesley Wilson will qualify as

an at-large.

MBA has a history of success at the ToC. In 1999, the team of Robbie Quinn (now an English teacher and coach here at MBA) and Raja Gaddipati won the tournament, and in 2005 Tripp Rebrovick was the top speaker.

The debate coaches are optimistic that the team will have another strong showing at the tournament. Aaron Lutkowitz will represent MBA at the Extemporaneous Speaking Tournament of Champions at Northwestern University in Chicago. MBA will also be competing in the National Forensic League National Tournament June 14-19 in Birmingham, Alabama.

Next year the MBA Debate team will definitely miss the contributions of our graduating senior class, but Coach Hamrick feels the future is bright. Many of MBA's best debaters, such as Campbell Haynes, Wesley Wilson, Hershel Mehta, and Aaron Lutkowitz, are juniors and can only improve. He also hopes that the team has a strong incoming freshman class to carry on the tradition of MBA Debate. The debate team continues to shine brightly on the Hill and beyond.



Hershel Mehta and Sam Page dress for success

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Sportswriter Feinstein Headlines Father-Son Dinner

by
Michael Seitz
Assistant News Editor

Best-selling sportswriter John Feinstein was the keynote speaker for the annual MBA Father-Son Dinner on Tuesday night March 10th. A packed Currey Gymnasium dined on barbeque from Jim-n-Nicks and heard stories from seniors Jamie Cooper, Fadi Pulous, Kile Garrett, and Taylor Land. Entertainment was provided by the MBA jazz band, including a solo vocal by Daniel White.

After an introduction by Headmaster Gioia, Mr. Feinstein described how his early childhood sports interests led to a career in sports journalism instead of in opera management, his father's vocation. Feinstein remarked that as a college student at Duke University in the pre-Coach K era, he was an avid basketball fan even when they did not have very good teams.

He discussed his good fortune in obtaining access to controversial Indiana University basketball coach Bobby Knight during the 1985-1986 season that led to his first best-selling book, *A Season on the Brink*. Feinstein recounted how, after the book's publication, Knight angrily called Feinstein a "pimp" and a "whore." "Well, what am I?" Feinstein asked. "Why?" responded Knight. "Because I want to know how to dress," said Feinstein.

A few years later, when he ran into Knight at an NCAA coaches' conference that Feinstein was covering as a journalist, Knight chatted cheerily with Feinstein as though they were good buddies. "How can you have such a friendly conversation with him after what he has called you?" demanded his friend, Maryland basketball coach Gary Williams, who was with him. "Because he paid for my first house," re-

called Feinstein.

Feinstein wrote a book in 2000, *The Last Amateurs*, about college student-athletes during the 1999-2000 season, who played in the Patriot League, the last Division I conference to offer no athletic scholarships. During his address he talked about a student he met at Holy Cross College, Chris Spitzer. In high school Spitzer by his own admission was an average basketball player, and no college invited him to play on their team. Still, he dreamed of playing Division I basketball and amazingly captured the last roster spot as a walk-on to the Holy Cross team.

While on a bus trip to a game, he read a magazine that rated the Patriot League as the worst conference in the country, and his Holy Cross basketball team was last in the league. Spitzer told Feinstein how at parties he would walk up to woman and ask, "Do you know who I am?" "Yeah, you're a loser trying to hit on me." "I'm not just any loser," Spitzer would say, "I happen to be the worst Division I basketball player in the country. Now what do you think of me?" By the end of his junior season Spitzer was the starting point guard. His senior year, though, after a coaching change, he had to earn a place on the team again. By the end of the year he

was again a team leader and a starter.

Feinstein lately has focused on writing about golf and tennis. He shared how he believes tennis pros are mostly "spoiled and obnoxious." Feinstein recalled how the former tennis star Andre Agassi arrived the night before a tournament at the Cincinnati Airport at 11:30 pm with his large entourage of support people. Agassi was greeted at the airport by the tournament director, but he was concerned when she did not mention a security plan to prevent a fan mob scene. "Mr. Agassi," she reassured, "this airport is in Kentucky, and unless you were on 'Haw' last week, nobody here will know who you are."

Feinstein's next book, to be published this year, is about Rocco Mediate, a professional golfer who almost beat Tiger Woods at the US Open in 2008. According to Feinstein, golf is a sport with fewer prima donnas because they face lots of failure, and players are older when they achieve success in the sport. He spoke of a respect and tradition in golf which the older stars pass on to the younger stars that is missing in many other professional sports.

Feinstein explained that his favorite book is *A Civil War*, published in 1996. Feinstein followed the Army and Navy football teams during the 1995 season. He became friends with many of the athletes, though, he noted sadly, some have died from fighting in Iraq.

The evening festivities concluded with songs performed by the MBA chorus. The many who attended left the warm gym after a great evening of entertainment and were greeted by the cool spring night air for a pleasant journey home.



Renowned sportswriter John Feinstein shares anecdotes at the Father-Son Dinner

For The Track Team, The Time Is Now

by
Kyle Brantley
Staff Writer

Last year, MBA had the depth and talent to win the state championship in track & field. After winning the Highland Games, the Doug Hall Relays, and the Region



Baker Mulherin rocks some Ensworth chump

Championship, the Big Red were in great position to take the state title. However, the team fell short in that regard, as they placed fifth in the state. BA, a team that MBA beat in the region, won the state championship. The disappointing team finish should not overshadow the incredible performances of Christian Waddey, Patrick Crum, and Ben Bartholomew, who all won individual state titles.

Throughout the season last year, MBA would build a gigantic lead after the field events, and then scrape by in the running events. If the 2009 team wants to win the state championship, they must be more competitive in the running events. Sprints, in particular, have been the Achilles heel of the team as of late. Seniors Reggie Ford, Patrick Crum, and Perry Webb will try and lead the sprinters in a new direction this year.

Reggie is the team's best 100-meter runner, and Patrick and Perry will be vital to the success of the 4x100 and 4x200 relay teams. Freshman sensation Jhamall Wright will definitely contribute to both of these relay teams as well. In the 400, MBA

will look to junior Brad Bars and freshmen phenom Jarrett Love, among many others, to help in the individual and relay runs. In the 110 and 300 Hurdles, senior Rhett Wallace, junior Ryan Venable, and freshman Bryan Oslin are expected to perform extremely well this year. In the Region meet last year, MBA did not place in the 100 or 400, and got last in the 4x100. Improved performance in the sprinting department will make MBA nearly unstoppable.

In terms of distance runners, it is all about the sophomore class. As a freshman last year, Ryan Hill placed 7th in the state in the 3200. Hill and Michael Peters, who was hurt all last year, have high expectations this year. Peters has the talent to win state in the mile, so the Big Red hope he can stay healthy. MBA's 4x800 team will be hard to stop this year as well, with junior David Dalton joining senior Baker Mulherin and junior Dalton Fouts on the relay this year. Mulherin placed 4th individually in the 800 in the state meet last year.

The Big Red should pick up where they left off last year in field events; the

team could very well win state in discuss, high jump, pole vault, and long jump. Seniors Wesley Johnson and Scott Bubis will be throwing shot and discus respectively. Seniors Leland Howe and Baker Mulherin could place 1-2 in pole vault in the state meet. Last, but certainly not least, Patrick Crum will attempt to be a three-time state champion in the long jump this year. Crum now holds the MBA record for that event, so his ultimate goal this year has to be the state record. In high jump, MBA will need the combined efforts of Fitz Lassing, Steven Gaittens, Ryan Venable, and Paul Bamson to be competitive this year.

Keep an eye out for Gaittens, as his jumps will continue to improve as he learns more about his form in his first year of track. That man has serious ups.

The 2009 track team has one goal – to win a state championship. Every single member of the track team believes it can happen, and they are all working harder than ever to make this dream a reality.

Lacrosse Preview

The Players Talk About Upcoming Season

by
Tom Markham
Staff Writer

The MBA varsity lacrosse team came out to a roaring start to open up their season, starting 6-0 with victories such as 19-2 over Webb School and 16-5 over Trinity High School.

Over spring break, however, the Big Red hit a bit of a road block, going 0-3 in the Northwest Invitational in Seattle.

I polled some of the players after spring break to get their opinion on where the team stands now. I asked them how this year's team was different from previous teams and what the team's strengths and weaknesses are this year.

The players all agreed that this team has great chemistry, even more so than previous teams. Senior Kile Garrett commented, "We are all good friends and get along well, which helps us on the field."

Even the newcomers on the team are able to fit in well because of the team's great chemistry. Freshman defender Zach Chen told me, "It was really easy to fit in. Everybody was encouraging and helpful. The veterans often gave good advice."

The good team chemistry has led to tremendous success in the beginning of the season, and, as a result, the team has very high expectations for the rest of the year. Sophomore Nick Kohler said, "Our goal is obviously to win the state championship. MUS and McCallie will be challengers, but we should be able to beat them."

Entering region play, the team is

out to avenge last year's losses to key rivals. Kile Garrett noted, "After our loss to MUS last year in the semi-finals by 3, everyone on the team made it his personal goal to get better and work hard everyday. We have the skill and the talent to bring home another title to the Hill."

Indeed, it will take the effort of each player working hard everyday to consummate the team's desires. After the tournament in Seattle, all the players realized that they could get better and still had room to improve. Zach Chen commented, "Seattle was pretty disappointing, but it was necessary after a 6-game winning streak to reveal all things that the team needs to work on."

The lacrosse team still has to face such daunting opponents as Libertyville High School in Illinois, Georgia's Pope High School, an away game at McCallie, and a home game against MUS. All the players are especially looking forward to the MUS game. Kohler remarked, "It's a big game, and it's at home. Hopefully, a lot of fans will come support us."

With a talented group of young underclassmen, very able senior leaders, and great team chemistry, the MBA varsity Lacrosse team has set for itself high goals of winning the state championship, and with the hard work and determination of each player through the rest of the season, this dream could very easily be realized.

Riflery Shoots for Wins

by
Mitchell Lukens
Staff Gunner

With the first half of the season gone, the MBA rifle team shifts their attention now to the upcoming state tournament in April and with the Junior Olympic qualification match in Mt. Juliet on April 4. Both Siegel High School and Blackman High School are promising to give the Big Red a run for the title this year. With a twelve-year win streak, this added pressure just makes the task that much more difficult. Before the last few weeks of competition, though, a recap is in order from the past few months.

The MBA rifle team has been led this year by the talents of coaches Leo Lujan, Henry Gaither, and Coach Sharbel. Coach Lujan is a former national and international pistol shooter who came to MBA in the mid-90's and has championed the team to twelve straight state titles. Coach Gaither flew cargo missions to the Vietnam theater of war and spent his career flying international flights for Northwest Airlines before retiring and becoming one of MBA's coaches. Not to be forgotten, Coach Sharbel was a collegiate rifle shooter and a graduate of Vanderbilt University. He served for several years in the Marine Corps, before coming to MBA to lead the team in physical conditioning, and all of us can agree that we have never felt better. Finally, Gray Taylor (12) leads the team as this year's team captain, and everyone has flourished under his leadership.

Beginning in August, the team went to Fort Benning, Georgia to train over the Labor Day weekend. The guidance of two

legendary, international shooters-turned-coaches, Bill Krilling and Bob Alward, aided each shooter and brought the team back from the summer slump, ready to begin the year. Then, the season began in earnest with a trip to Shelby County, KY, where the Big Red posted a victory against a nationally ranked team.

This year, the MBA rifle team has had a very successful season thus far. To name two more notable tournaments, the rifle team finished in 2nd Place in the MBA Rifle Classic last October, the largest high school tournament in the nation. The only team to beat the Big Red was Union Grove NJROTC, by 6 points. To cap off such a successful match, Vic Goetz (12) finished 6th in the entire tournament.

In the Ole Mill Invitational over Thanksgiving weekend, the rifle team shot a score of 2291, the season's best as of now, and won the tournament. In the past few weeks, the MBA Rifles took a very tough loss away at St. Louis University High School, with a score of 2279 to their 2302. Essentially, this match became the wakeup call the team needed.

With the end of the year in sight, the rifle team looks forward to the final two matches of the season, both very important, to cap off a great season. Congratulations are in order for Vic Goetz who received the Distinguished Shooters Badge, one of only about 200 ever given out to shooters. Thanks are in order to all three coaches and to Gray for a great season thus far.

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Mrs. Bourland's winning smile

In Memoriam: Mrs. Libby Bourland

Beloved MBA teacher 1994- 2006

Mother of MBA graduates John Bearden ('95), Rob Bearden ('98), Cole Bourland ('04)

The Bell Ringer and the entire MBA community offer sincerest sympathy for the loss of Mrs. Bourland.

"She introduced me to Michaelangelo's pizza, and I will always be grateful to her for that. I wasn't necessarily her best student, but she made time for me, and it's the little things I remember most." - Houston Oldham

"She made the teaching process so easy for the students to understand." - Alex Martin

"She had the unique ability to take kids from ten different middle schools with all different backgrounds in grammar and have them on the same page in a matter of weeks."

- Kyle Brantley

Mollia non rigidus caespes
tegat ossa, nec illi,

Terra, gravis fueris: non fuit
illa tibi. Martial (41-104 CE)

(May the soft turf cover her gentle bones,

And may you, oh earth, be not heavy for her, for she was not heavy for you.)

Atque in perpetuum, magistra
cara, ave atque vale.

Catullus (ca. 85-55 BCE)
adapted

(And now, into forever, dear-teacher, hail and farewell.)



Mrs. Bourland with current juniors (l to r) Steven Burbank, Kyle Brantley and Adrian Carey

